

RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
COVID-19: Staff Quarantine & Isolation Protocols
Last Updated: 5/28/2021

Please be advised that the information contained in this document changes rapidly. As a result, this document is updated often; therefore, you should ensure no changes have been made since you last referenced or printed it. Also, please keep in mind that RIDOC determines quarantine, isolation and testing decisions based on RIDOH and CDC guidelines and recommendations; ***however***, RIDOC is unique as it is considered a congregate living setting and has a varied nature of work that employees conduct on a daily basis, thus there are multiple factors that contribute to this decision making. RIDOC routinely consults with the RIDOH to determine the best course of action based upon these factors and the individual circumstances surrounding an exposure. Your situation and circumstances are not the same as anyone else's; therefore, many decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.

If you have recovered from a COVID-19 infection within the past 90 days or are fully vaccinated (i.e., 2 weeks after your final dose of vaccine), you do not need to quarantine after an exposure or travel.

DOC QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS

Vaccinated Individuals:

Quarantine is **NOT REQUIRED** for anyone who is **FULLY VACCINATED** even if they were exposed to someone with Covid-19 or recently traveled (see Travel Protocols below).

Fully vaccinated is defined as someone who is 2 weeks out from receiving the 2nd vaccine dose, in a 2-dose series, or 2 weeks out from receiving one dose of a single-dose vaccine.

If a staff member has symptoms: they should get tested and should isolate until they receive a negative test result, regardless of vaccinated status.

Individuals Who are NOT Fully Vaccinated:

A 10-day Quarantine is REQUIRED for anyone who is NOT FULLY VACCINATED if they:

- had contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19
- traveled out-of-state (for more than 24 hours) (see Travel Protocols below)
- been advised to quarantine by the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) or a medical professional

* A 10-day quarantine may be shortened to 7 days if the individual tests negative no earlier than day 5 of quarantine.

Any **not fully vaccinated** staff person who has a **household member that has tested positive** must **quarantine for 20 days if the staff person cannot isolate** from the positive household member (i.e., separate bedroom, and bathroom). If isolation is possible, the staff person may quarantine for 10 days.

The following protocols are for staff **who have not been fully vaccinated and have not recovered from a previous COVID infection in the last 90 days**. If a staff member has been in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, has traveled out-of-state (for more than 24 hours) or has been advised by the RIDOH or a medical professional to quarantine **but are not currently exhibiting symptoms** themselves:

- Notify your supervisor of your need to quarantine.
 - Supervisors shall notify, via email, the designated person who is tracking staff quarantine and isolation information.
- ❖ **First Responders** [Correctional Officers (CO's) and nursing staff **only**] ***shall continue to report to work during their quarantine period regardless of vaccination status.***
 - First responders must wear K/N95 masks while at work during their quarantine period.
 - **If First Responders develop symptoms at any time during their shift they MUST leave immediately and begin isolating at home in accordance with DOC Isolation Protocols (outlined below).**
- ❖ **First Responders** must quarantine when outside of work (no public transportation, no shopping, quarantine from family members etc.).
- A COVID-19 test must be done no sooner than day 7 of quarantine in order to return to work (staff must complete their 10-day quarantine even if their test is negative).
 - The test should be done in the community (<https://portal.ri.gov/>) or you can schedule a drive-up test at the RIDOC by emailing your request to doc.covidquestions@doc.ri.gov.
 - The COVID-19 test must be a PCR test (either Nasopharyngeal Anterior Nares swab). Rapid tests, BinaxNOW tests, and/or antibody tests will **not** be accepted for return to work.
 - *If you are tested in the community*, you must send your supervisor a copy of the negative test result.
 - Once your supervisor receives the negative test result, he/she shall forward the result to doc.covidquestions@doc.ri.gov, which will be securely stored.

If you are on quarantine and notice symptoms, please get tested.

DOC POST-TRAVEL QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS

Individuals Who are NOT Fully Vaccinated:

Domestic Travel: **Individuals who are NOT fully vaccinated** must take a **COVID-19 test after returning to RI** and produce a negative test result **before returning to work**. All travelers arriving at and departing from TF Green Airport can get a free rapid COVID-19 test in the baggage claim area.

International Travel: **Individuals who are NOT fully vaccinated** must **quarantine for 10 days** after returning to RI. A 10-day quarantine may be shortened to 7 days if the individual tests negative no earlier than day 5 of quarantine.

Fully Vaccinated Individuals: (also applies to those within 90 days of a previous positive COVID-19 test)

Domestic and International Travel: **Fully vaccinated individuals (including those who tested positive within 90 days) do not need to quarantine** upon return from travel but **must** test within 7 days of their return to RI. All travelers arriving at and departing from TF Green Airport can get a free rapid COVID-19 test in the baggage claim area.

Testing should be done in the community (<https://portal.ri.gov/>) or you can schedule a drive-up test at DOC by emailing your request to doc.covidquestions@doc.ri.gov.

NOTE: A Nasopharyngeal PCR, Anterior Nasal Swab test, or rapid test is required (antibody tests will **not** be accepted for return to work). Proof of negative test will be required if done in the community. Results must be sent to your supervisor, **prior to returning to work**, who will forward them to the DOC COVID Questions email doc.covidquestions@doc.ri.gov.

Please use extra caution when returning to work: Keep your mask on, continue social distancing, self-monitor for symptoms, and get tested if you have any concerns. During your time at work after travel, it is recommended to minimize work exposures and contact with individuals as much as possible.

Individuals, regardless of vaccination status, should self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days upon return from travel. If someone develops symptoms at any time or receives a positive test result, they should follow the DOC Isolation Protocols outlined below.

DOC ISOLATION PROTOCOLS

No one shall enter any RIDOC facility who is COVID-19 positive or has COVID-19 like symptoms.

NOTE: Individuals who are fully vaccinated must still follow all DOC Isolation Protocols if they have tested positive or have COVID-19 like symptoms.

- Isolate for 10 days from the date you tested positive, **if** you do not have symptoms.
- For those who have, or who develop symptoms after the positive test result, **isolation begins from the start of symptoms**; therefore, isolation dates can change.

Exception: If you have received at least 1 dose of COVID-19 vaccine **and** you do not have symptoms you may opt to end your isolation early by taking 2 PCR tests, 24 hours apart and getting a negative result for each. If you receive negative results for both PCR tests you may return to work the day after you receive the 2nd negative test result.

- If you receive a positive result from either or both of the PCR tests, you must complete your 10-day isolation (starting from the day of the initial positive test).
- If your tests are taken in the community, your supervisor must email the negative results to doc.covidquestions@doc.ri.gov **prior to** your return to work.
- Notify your supervisor
 - Supervisors shall notify the designated person who is tracking staff quarantine and isolation information.
 - Provide your supervisor with the shift(s) and location(s) you have worked in the 48 hours prior to your test being done or your symptoms starting and the names of anyone you have been in close contact with.
 - Contact tracing information must be sent to your supervisor as soon as possible after you receive a positive test result and/or you develop symptoms.
- Notify your primary care physician (PCP)

In order to return to work on your Eligible Return to Work Date you must **be fever-free** for at least 24 hours **and** have not used fever reducing medications (i.e., Aspirin, Acetaminophen or Ibuprofen), **and** have improving symptoms.

- Individuals with underlying health conditions, or those that are immunocompromised, should discuss return to work with their PCP to ensure they are no longer contagious or at risk for serious health complications related to the COVID-19 virus. If you are unsure if this category applies to you, please contact your PCP.
- For those who tested positive for COVID-19, you will not need to test again until 90 days after your isolation period has ended.

GENERAL QUARANTINE GUIDELINES

If you have been identified as a contact to someone who tested positive with COVID-19, follow these guidelines:

- Stay home unless absolutely necessary or you are a First Responder!
- Do not take public transportation, taxis or ride-shares
- Do not have any visitors to your house during this time
- If you need to seek medical care for other reasons, call ahead to your healthcare provider and tell them **you are under COVID-19 quarantine.**
- If you have a medical emergency, call 911. Tell them your symptoms and that you under COVID-19 quarantine.

Monitoring Your Symptoms

It is important to **closely monitor for symptoms** while self-quarantining. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

Symptoms to watch for:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting

Contact your healthcare provider if you become ill. Notify your immediate supervisor right away if you have symptoms and make an appointment to get tested.

Protect Others

If you live with others:

- Designate a room for your exclusive use if you can – a bathroom, too, if possible.
- At a minimum, keep your distance (at least 6 feet) from others in your home.
- Wear a mask if you must be around other people.
- Disinfect high touch surfaces regularly.

GENERAL ISOLATION GUIDELINES

If you have tested positive for COVID-19 or have COVID-like symptoms follow these guidelines.

Health Checks

- **Watch for symptoms** such as fever, respiratory illness (cough, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath), mild flu-like illness (fatigue, chills, muscle aches) and/or loss of taste or smell.
- ***If you have symptoms and are older than 65 OR have health issues, ask your PCP about monoclonal antibody treatment.***

Contact your healthcare provider immediately if you develop worsening of symptoms.

Protect Others

Designate a room for your exclusive use – a bathroom, too, if possible.

- Disinfect every surface you cough on or touch as it could become contaminated with the virus.
- At a minimum, keep your distance (at least 6 feet) from others in your home.

Masks If you must be around other people — in your home, or in a car, because you're on your way to see a doctor (only after you have called) — you should wear a mask and make sure anyone near you is wearing a mask.

Hygiene If you cough or sneeze, you should cover your mouth and nose with a tissue and discard the used tissue in a lined trash can and immediately **wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds**. Even if you haven't coughed or sneezed, you should **wash your hands frequently**, and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, if you haven't just washed them.

Disinfect Don't share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels or bedding with anyone (including your pets). Wash these items after you use them. Countertops, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets and bedside tables are considered "high-touch surfaces" — wipe them often with a household cleanser.

Best Practices

- Stay home unless absolutely necessary!
- Do not take public transportation, taxis or ride-shares
- Do not have any visitors to your house during this time
If you need to seek medical care for other reasons, call ahead to your healthcare provider and tell them **you are under COVID-19 isolation**.
- If you have symptomatic COVID infection **and** underlying health issues **or** are over age 65, ask your PCP about monoclonal antibody treatment.
- If you have a medical emergency, call 911. Tell them your symptoms and that you under COVID-19 **isolation**.